

NUCLEIC ACID PROBES FOR DETECTION AND/OR
QUANTITATION OF NON-VIRAL ORGANISMS

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

5 A method for preparing probes, as well as several
probes for use in qualitative or quantitative hybridization
assays are disclosed. The method comprises constructing an
oligonucleotide that is sufficiently complementary to hybridize
to a region of rRNA selected to be unique to a non-viral organism
or group of non-viral organisms sought to be detected, said
10 region of rRNA being selected by comparing one or more variable
region rRNA sequences of said non-viral organism or group of non-
viral organisms with one or more variable region rRNA sequences
from one or more non-viral organisms sought to be distinguished.
Hybridization assay probes for Mycobacterium avium, Mycobacterium
15 intracellulare, the Mycobacterium tuberculosis-complex bacteria,
Mycoplasma pneumoniae, Legionella, Salmonella, Chlamydia
trachomatis, Campylobacter, Proteus mirabilis, Enterococcus,
Enterobacter cloacae, E. coli, Pseudomonas group I, Neisseria
gonorrhoeae, bacteria, and fungi also are disclosed.